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Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Tokelau

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

Contents

		Page
	The Territory at a glance	3
I.	Constitutional and political developments	4
	A. Local self-governance	4
	B. Referendum process	4
II.	Economic conditions	5
	A. General economic overview	5
	B. Assistance to Tokelau by the administering Power	6
	C. Transport and communications	7
	D. Power supply	7
III.	Social conditions	7
	A. General	7
	B. Education	8
	C. Health care	8
IV.	Environment	9

Note: The information contained in the present working paper has been derived from public sources, including those of the territorial Government, and from information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the administering Power under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations. Information was transmitted by the administering Power on 11 December 2017. Further details are contained in previous working papers, available from www.un.org/en/decolonization/workingpapers.shtml.

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V. External relations ... 9

VI. Future status of the Territory ... 10

A. Position of the territorial Government ... 10

B. Position of the administering Power ... 10

VII. Consideration by the United Nations ... 11

A. Consideration of the question of Tokelau by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples ... 11

B. Consideration of the question of Tokelau by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) ... 11

C. Action taken by the General Assembly ... 12

Annex

Map of Tokelau ... 14

The Territory at a glance

Territory: Tokelau is a Non-Self-Governing Territory, as defined under the Charter of the United Nations, administered by New Zealand.

Representative of administering Power: Administrator Jonathan Kings. According to the administering Power, Ross Ardern will assume office in early 2018.

Geography: Tokelau comprises three small atolls: Fakaofo, Nukunonu and Atafu. Each atoll comprises strips of land up to 200 m wide and not more than 5 m above sea level. Samoa, located 480 km to the south, is the nearest sizeable neighbour and the principal point of contact for Tokelau with the outside world. Access is possible only by ship, with an average of 30 hours' sailing from Samoa. There is no air service.

Land area: 12.2 km²

Exclusive economic zone: 318,990 km²

Population: 1,499 (October 2016 census), distributed as follows: Atafu: 519; Fakaofo: 448; Nukunonu: 448; and Samoa: 48 (Tokelau Public Service employees and their immediate families). There are 7,176 Tokelauans living in New Zealand (2013 census). As New Zealand citizens, Tokelauans may also reside in Australia.

Life expectancy at birth: 69.1 years (women: 70.4 years; men: 67.8 years (2010–2015 estimates))

Ethnic composition: Tokelauans are Polynesians with linguistic, familial and cultural links with Samoa.

Languages: Tokelauan. English and Samoan are also widely used.

Capital: None. Each atoll has its own administrative centre.

Head of territorial Government: Ulu-o-Tokelau. The position rotates annually among the leaders of each atoll.

Main political parties: None

Elections: Held in January every third year. The most recent election was held in January 2017.

Legislature: The unicameral General Fono

Economy: The principal sources of revenue are assistance provided by New Zealand through budgetary support and project funding, and fees from fisheries licences.

Monetary unit: New Zealand dollar ($NZ)

Gross domestic product per capita: $US 6,275 (Tokelau National Statistics Office)

Brief history: Originally inhabited by Polynesians from surrounding islands, Tokelau became a British protectorate in 1889, and administration was transferred to New Zealand in 1925. By the Tokelau Act 1948, sovereignty over Tokelau was transferred to New Zealand.

I. Constitutional and political developments

A. Local self-governance

1. As previously reported, the current process of constitutional development stems from the 1998 decision of the General Fono (the national representative body) to endorse a comprehensive report entitled "Modern house of Tokelau", which addressed the core issue that faced Tokelau in creating a constitutional framework that suited an atoll- or village-based self-governing community that respected traditional decision-making customs.

2. In accordance with the terms of that report, General Fono delegates are now elected on the basis of proportional village representation, with a system of universal village suffrage, rather than one of equal village representation with delegates appointed by the respective *taupulega* (village councils), as was previously the case. In 2017, 21 delegates were elected to the General Fono: seven from each of the three villages, including one representative of each village's *fatupaepae* (women's committee). In 2004, further decisions were made on the method of appointment of the Chair of the General Fono and on the role and responsibilities of the six-person Council for the Ongoing Government, which is the executive Government when the General Fono is not in session. The Council consists of three *faipule* (representatives of each village) and one General Fono delegate from each village, designated by the *taupulega*. The position of Ulu-o-Tokelau, or Head of Government, rotates annually among the three *faipule*. In February 2017, the Faipule of Nukunonu took over as Ulu-o-Tokelau. In February 2018, the Faipule of Fakaofo is expected to rotate into the position.

3. Since 2004, the three village councils have taken full responsibility for all village public services. That decision emanated from the Modern House of Tokelau approach, whereby the traditional Council of Elders on each atoll serves as the foundation for any future governance structure. Under that arrangement, the councils delegate authority to the General Fono for activities that need to be handled at the national level (see A/AC.109/2005/3).

4. The New Zealand official with the principal responsibility for maintaining the relationship with Tokelau is the Administrator of Tokelau, who is appointed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of New Zealand. The current Administrator is Jonathan Kings, who is also the Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, with responsibility for the Pacific and Development Group. Ross Ardern, serving as High Commissioner in Niue at the time of writing of the present paper, is expected to assume the role of Administrator in early 2018. The Office of the Administrator draws on advice and support from the Ministry, including the Special Relations Unit within the Pacific and Development Group.

B. Referendum process

5. In 2003, the General Fono took a formal decision, with the support of all three village councils, to endorse self-government in free association with New Zealand as the choice to be actively explored with the Government of New Zealand. In August 2005, the General Fono approved a draft constitution, as the basis for the proposed act of self-determination, and the text of a draft treaty of free association. In November 2005, the Cabinet of New Zealand gave its formal approval. The referendum package, consisting of the draft treaty and the draft constitution, was to

form the basis of the referendum on self-determination. In line with a decision by the General Fono, an overall majority of two thirds of the valid votes cast was required for a change to the status of Tokelau.

6. The first referendum on self-determination was held sequentially in Apia and on the three atolls from 11 to 15 February 2006 (see A/AC.109/2006/20). The outcome fell short of the required two-thirds majority, with 60 per cent of valid Tokelauan votes cast in favour of self-government in free association with New Zealand. The United Nations, which formally monitored the referendum, deemed the process credible and reflective of the will of the people of Tokelau. A representative of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, accompanied by a Political Affairs Officer of the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, also observed the referendum process.

7. In August 2006, the General Fono voted to hold a second referendum on Tokelauan self-determination in late 2007. The proposed constitution and the draft treaty, commonly referred to as the self-determination package, were to be the same, and the legal threshold for acceptance of the proposal would remain at a two-thirds majority.

8. The second referendum was held from 20 to 24 October 2007. The result, with 64.4 per cent in favour, was again below the two-thirds threshold, thereby leaving the status of the Territory unchanged (see A/AC.109/2007/19). As with the first referendum, the United Nations formally monitored the voting, with representatives of the Special Committee and the Department of Political Affairs present as observers.

9. Following the results of the second referendum, the General Fono requested the Government of New Zealand to keep the entire self-determination package on the table. The Council for the Ongoing Government noted that Tokelau could in the future change the two-thirds majority threshold for the referendum, but should put in place measures to ensure that a threshold would be supported by a clear majority in each village, to guarantee unity. The Council also noted the Territory's strong commitment to self-determination and its wish to have a constitution, albeit one that did not encompass the provisions for free association and self-government.

10. The outcomes of the referendums, neither of which reached the threshold of support set by the General Fono for a change of status, have been acknowledged and accepted by New Zealand. As a follow-up to the result of the referendum held in 2007, the then Prime Minister of New Zealand met the leaders of Tokelau in February 2008 to discuss the next steps in the development of the New Zealand-Tokelau relationship. It was agreed that a "pause" should be taken in the self-determination efforts of Tokelau and that, in the meantime, Tokelau would focus on meeting its basic needs. That remains the situation.

II. Economic conditions

A. General economic overview

11. Tokelau faces major constraints to its economic growth, including such natural disadvantages as small size, isolation, distances between the atolls, lack of natural resources and natural disasters. The economic stability of the Territory has to date been made possible by the high levels of assistance provided by the administering Power. With the continued assistance of New Zealand, the Council for the Ongoing

Government intends to maintain its focus on improving the delivery of core public services, such as education, health and policing; completing key infrastructure projects, such as schools, hospitals, renewable energy, telecommunications and transport; and strengthening the Council and the Tokelau Public Service.

12. As part of a new fisheries policy aimed at maximizing the economic benefits from the sustainable use of its exclusive economic zone, Tokelau joined the Vessel Day Scheme in 2012. This mechanism allows vessel owners to purchase and trade days fishing at sea in places subject to the Nauru Agreement concerning Cooperation in the Management of Fisheries of Common Interest. The scheme is used to sustainably manage catches of target tuna species and increase the rate of return from fishing activities through access fees paid by distant water fishing nations. In October 2015, the General Fono approved fisheries reforms intended to further improve the administration and management of the Territory's offshore and inshore fisheries. The implementation of the reform programme continues and is guided by a fisheries reform steering group comprising representatives of Tokelau, the Office of the Administrator and the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries, which provides technical advice to the Administrator.

13. Traditional and communal values and practices play a key role in contributing to a state of general well-being in the Territory, as evidenced by the *inati* system and the importance attached to upholding the concepts of family and/or extended family. The tradition of *inati* requires the deposit at a central location of food and produce, which are then apportioned by the distributors on the basis of "share groups". The principle provides for a secure distribution system that addresses the needs of every member of the community, including older persons, widows, single parents and children.

B. Assistance to Tokelau by the administering Power

14. Assistance is provided through budget support and specific projects. In 2017/18, New Zealand will provide $NZ 11 million in general budget support to Tokelau and over $NZ 4 million for a range of other activities, including fisheries management, disaster preparedness, climate change adaptation, policing, scholarships, economic governance and education initiatives.

15. In addition to providing budget support and funding activities, New Zealand announced two major investments in the infrastructure of Tokelau in 2017:

(a) $NZ 15.8 million to upgrade the reef channels and onshore facilities at four locations in order to make ship-to-shore transfers of people and cargo safer and more efficient and to enable an inter-atoll vessel to operate;

(b) $NZ 22.2 million to connect the Tokelau atolls to a submarine Internet cable that will provide much faster Internet access, enabling better communication, administration and governance and improved health and education services.

16. A major capital project for the period 2012–2015, the passenger and cargo ship *Mataliki*, for which New Zealand provided $NZ 13 million, was handed over to Tokelau in February 2016.

17. The Tokelau International Trust Fund, formally established in November 2004, was designed to provide intergenerational security and an independent source of income to Tokelau in the future. With contributions from Australia, New Zealand,

Tokelau and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the balance in the Fund as at 30 June 2017 was $NZ 87.398 million.

C. Transport and communications

18. Tokelau has no airstrips. Its transportation needs are met by regular passenger and cargo shipping services from Apia. According to the administering Power, and in recognizing that the quality of the transport service linking the atolls and providing connections to Samoa is vital to Tokelau, in 2016 the Government of New Zealand gave Tokelau the *Mataliki*, a purpose-built vessel that carries up to 60 passengers and essential cargo. New Zealand is also working to improve the transfer of passengers and cargo from ship to shore by upgrading wharves and reef channels (see para. 15 above).

19. Telecommunications services in Tokelau are provided by the Tokelau Telecommunications Corporation (Teletok). In June 2017, Teletok installed 4G cellular towers, which have enabled it to establish mobile phone service across the three atolls. New Zealand's investment in connecting Tokelau to a submarine Internet cable will also ensure that the atolls have high-speed Internet access (see para. 15 above).

D. Power supply

20. In 2012, Tokelau became the first area in the world to draw electrical power primarily from solar sources, following the completion of the Tokelau Renewable Energy Project, funded by the Governments of Tokelau and New Zealand. The initiative involved the installation of solar photovoltaic systems with large solar arrays on the three atolls.

21. The demand for electricity has grown since 2012. As a result, the Government of Tokelau has funded the expansion of photovoltaic systems and upgrades of the village distribution networks. As a Pacific island affected by climate change, Tokelau has made a commitment to renewable energy that can serve as an example for the developed world.

III. Social conditions

A. General

22. On 18 October 2016, Statistics New Zealand and the Tokelau National Statistics Office conducted the census, which is carried out every five years. The official de jure usually resident population of Tokelau is 1,499. This comprises the usually resident population present on the date of the census (1,197) and the usually resident subgroup of the population absent on that date (302). The overall figure represents a 6.2 per cent increase from the previous census, conducted in 2011. The first household income and expenditure survey was also completed in 2016. This survey estimates total annual household income at $NZ 7 million, with employment accounting for 77.2 per cent, imputed rents for 10 per cent, income from transfers (including remittances, social benefits, pension and scholarships) for 7 per cent and gifts (in kind and remittances) for 5.1 per cent. The survey estimates an average household size of

4.6 people and annual per capita income of $NZ 6,100. Some 40 per cent of the population of Tokelau is less than 20 years of age, with a median age of 25 years.

B. Education

23. In Tokelau, early childhood, primary and secondary education are free up to year 13 and provided by the three schools in Tokelau, one on each atoll. As an owner of the University of the South Pacific, Tokelau has access to the University's distance-learning foundation course through the University's satellite receiver and centre on each atoll. The cost of the University's local infrastructure and staff is covered by the Government of Tokelau. According to the administering Power, the Government of Tokelau is investing significantly in its scholarship scheme, which prioritizes study at the University.

24. With a significant financial commitment from New Zealand, Tokelau is carrying out a long-term plan to transform compulsory education with the assistance of the Centre for Educational Development of Massey University. Assistance is focused on the strengthening of school governance and leadership, the professional development of teachers and principals and the improvement of learning outcomes for students. There is evidence of substantial improvements in these areas, but much remains to be done. The Education Review Office of New Zealand is expected to visit the three villages of Tokelau in March 2018 to assess progress and consult with the village councils and education committees about priorities for the coming years.

25. New schools were completed on Atafu and Fakaofo in 2013 with funding from New Zealand. The exterior of the new school building on Nukunonu is nearing completion, but it could be early 2018 before all its rooms are fully equipped and all classes are held in the new building.

C. Health care

26. According to the administering Power, the provision of adequate health services on three dispersed atolls remains a major challenge. The Department of Health of Tokelau is staffing and equipping the new hospital on Nukunonu to serve as a base hospital, which will provide more emergency services to Tokelau. In addition, the investments in high-speed Internet access and the inter-atoll vessel will broaden the range of service provision options, including medical evacuation between atolls.

27. Tools and protocols are in place for early detection of non-communicable diseases and risk factors in all hospitals so that patients receive early support and management services, thereby reducing the risk of cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases. The Government of New Zealand supports regional organizations in providing technical assistance to reduce risk factors for non-communicable diseases, such as those resulting from tobacco use, and to provide better primary care for such diseases. It also supports immunization programmes and sexual and reproductive health services. In 2017, Tokelau, among other awardees in the Western Pacific region, won the World No Tobacco Day award, conferred by the World Health Organization, for its "tobacco-free Tokelau 2020" policy.

28. Tokelau has low infant and maternal mortality, thanks to the early referral of mothers for maternity care. Antenatal care coverage and coverage for child immunization is 100 per cent.

29. The Government of Tokelau reports that the proportion of the population with access to improved sanitation facilities is 93 per cent and the proportion with access to improved drinking water sources is 97 per cent.

IV. Environment

30. Tokelau is particularly susceptible to climate change, sea level rise, extreme climate events and related hazards. In July 2016, this reality led the General Fono to include climate change among its national development priorities under Tokelau's national development framework, 2016–2020. In April 2017, Tokelau officially launched its climate change strategy, entitled "Living with change: an integrated national strategy for enhancing the resilience of Tokelau to climate change and related hazards, 2017–2030". The strategy identifies three interrelated, climate-resilient, strategic investment pathways: mitigation (decarbonization development), adaptation (stronger integrated risk reduction and adaptation to enhance resilience in the face of climate change and disasters) and human development (capacity-building, education, training, public awareness and outreach). The corresponding implementation plan, which was also launched in April 2017, provides an overview for the first five years of the strategy, from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2022.

V. External relations

31. As set out in paragraphs 9 and 10 of the Joint Statement of the Principles of Partnership between Tokelau and New Zealand, Tokelau, as a Non-Self-Governing Territory, does not have an international legal personality separate from that of New Zealand that would allow it to enter into formal international legal obligations as a State in its own right. In consultation with Tokelau, New Zealand is responsible for entering into any such obligations on behalf of Tokelau. Tokelau participates in regional and international organizations in its own right to the extent that such organizations allow.

32. Tokelau is seeking to increase its engagement with regional and international organizations. It is a member of the Pacific Community, the Pacific Community Coastal Fisheries Programme, the Council of the University of the South Pacific, the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency. At the forty-fifth Pacific Islands Forum, held in Koror, Palau, from 29 to 31 July 2014, the participants agreed to admit Tokelau as an associate member. Tokelau is also a member of the Polynesian Leaders Group and an associate member of the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. In addition to New Zealand, Samoa is an important bilateral contact for Tokelau. The Territory continues to seek the support of New Zealand in gaining access to the Green Climate Fund and other adaptation and mitigation mechanisms.

33. Representatives of Tokelau attended the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as part of the New Zealand delegation. At the session, New Zealand announced that, as requested by the Government of Tokelau, it had submitted a formal declaration to the United Nations to extend the territorial application of both the Convention and the Paris Agreement to Tokelau. The national reports of New Zealand under the Convention will now include action taken by Tokelau, which, according to the administering Power, is likely to result in increased recognition for the Territory's

climate mitigation work as well as a greater focus being placed on its vulnerability to the effects of climate change.

VI. Future status of the Territory

A. Position of the territorial Government

34. At the 4th meeting of the Special Committee, on 12 June 2017, the Ulu-o-Tokelau, Sio Perez, said that the people of Tokelau remained determined to develop their homeland. The Territory had been practising self-government for some time, and the biggest challenge lay in harmonizing the governance of the three distinct villages, whereas other challenges included the skills gaps in the workforce, the distance from supply markets and the transportation of goods and people. He emphasized the importance of supporting Tokelau in establishing its own governance structures. While self-determination was not an immediate priority, the work to build robust infrastructure, as well as clear structures, systems and procedures within village and national institutions to support good governance, was pivotal for the development of resilience and self-reliance.

35. The Ulu-o-Tokelau said that the reality of climate change was visible in the changes to the coastal environment, rising temperatures and the acidification of lagoons, which had affected food security. He noted that, owing to its political status, Tokelau was not eligible for many United Nations climate change-related resources, such as grants from the Green Climate Fund.

36. Turning to developments in Tokelau, he provided an update to the Committee on a range of initiatives, including the ongoing construction of a new school and hospital. The Government of New Zealand was working with Tokelau to improve the quality of teaching in schools, to mitigate risks in its fisheries sector and to ensure active participation in climate-change programmes. A cellular telecommunications network had been established, and the Government of New Zealand was working with Tokelau on linking the Territory to a submarine Internet cable to improve connectivity.

37. He concluded by noting that Tokelau had come a long way, and such progress would not have been possible without the generous support of the Government of New Zealand. Tokelau was very grateful for the assistance it continued to receive as it strove to meet the aspirations of its people for a stronger, brighter and more reliable future. It was also grateful for the interest shown by the Committee and the United Nations as a whole in the welfare of Tokelauans.

B. Position of the administering Power

38. The former Administrator of Tokelau, David Nicholson, also spoke at the 4th meeting of the Special Committee. He said that Tokelau faced persistent challenges owing to its small population and its location. Nonetheless, Tokelau had consistently charted a course that preserved its unique culture, language and traditions, and sought assistance to safeguard its environment and adapt to the impacts of climate change. At the behest of Tokelau, New Zealand remained focused on improving quality of life on the three atolls and supported Tokelau in its careful, deliberate and forward-looking approach to self-governance. He added that it was not for New Zealand to set the pace of the decolonization process, but rather to support Tokelau in working

towards an outcome of sustained autonomy, where it would have as much self-governance as was feasible, in accordance with its own preferences.

39. New Zealand was committed to its constitutional relationship with the Government and people of Tokelau and remained focused on ensuring that all Tokelauans received appropriate essential services, while also supporting and building Tokelauan governance capability and confidence.

40. New Zealand had contributed $NZ 12 million to the 2016/17 general budget for the provision of core public services and expected to contribute an additional $NZ 5 million for improvements in transportation, education, fisheries management, governance, biosecurity and disaster resilience.

41. The Administrator said that New Zealand continued to value its close association with Tokelau, was resolute in supporting those remote communities of New Zealand citizens and welcomed the Committee's ongoing interest in Tokelau.

VII. Consideration by the United Nations

A. Consideration of the question of Tokelau by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

42. The Special Committee considered the question of Tokelau at its 4th and 7th meetings, held on 12 and 22 June 2017, respectively. At the 7th meeting, the representative of Papua New Guinea, also on behalf of Fiji, introduced draft resolution A/AC.109/2017/L.7, which the Special Committee adopted without a vote. The representative of Sierra Leone made a statement (see A/AC.109/2017/SR.7).

B. Consideration of the question of Tokelau by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

43. At the 6th meeting of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), held on 6 October 2017, the Permanent Representative of New Zealand, on behalf of the administering Power and the Administrator of Tokelau, said that his country's relationship with Tokelau was based on partnership. Working closely with the leadership and the people of the Territory, New Zealand had been guided by the pace they set as they progressed towards the future of their own choosing. The most recent referendums, held in 2006 and 2007, had fallen short of the majority required for Tokelau to become a self-governing Territory in free association with New Zealand.

44. The Territory was developing its own style of governance, which blended its traditional village-based leadership with national political institutions. The many positive recent developments included the establishment of the Public Service Commission, improvements in the quality of its public financial management and the creation of the Fisheries Management Agency to manage offshore resources. In addition, Tokelau had built its international profile on climate change, attending multilateral meetings to highlight the impact of climate change on the small nations of the Pacific. New Zealand supported those developments and, given its commitment to improving the quality of life of its most remote citizens, would continue to fund

the budget of Tokelau, to invest in improving its infrastructure and public services and to support the Territory in improving its governance processes.

45. While the Administrator of Tokelau and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of New Zealand both had statutory responsibilities for Tokelau, in practice the leaders of Tokelau bore those responsibilities and made decisions for the people of the Territory on a day-to-day basis. That complexity demanded clear and open communication and made it necessary to operate on a "no surprises" basis. Operating in that way enabled New Zealand to navigate the unique and evolving nature of its relationship with Tokelau.

46. In closing, the representative welcomed the ongoing interest of the Fourth Committee in Tokelau and said that New Zealand would continue to provide timely and accurate information to assist the Committee and the wider United Nations system.

47. At its 9th meeting, on 10 October 2017, the Fourth Committee adopted without a vote draft resolution XV (see A/72/23, chap. XIII) on the question of Tokelau.

C. Action taken by the General Assembly

48. At its 66th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2017, the General Assembly adopted without a vote resolution 72/107 on the question of Tokelau. In that resolution, the Assembly:

(a) Acknowledged the decision of the General Fono in 2008 that consideration of any future act of self-determination by Tokelau would be deferred and that New Zealand and Tokelau would devote renewed effort and attention to ensuring that essential services and infrastructure on the atolls of Tokelau were enhanced and strengthened, thereby ensuring an enhanced quality of life and opportunities for the people of Tokelau;

(b) Welcomed the progress made towards the devolution of power to the three *taupulega* since 2004, and noted that further discussion was planned on the recommendations in the report on the devolution review, compiled in 2012;

(c) Noted with appreciation that Tokelau and New Zealand remained firmly committed to the ongoing development of Tokelau for the long-term benefit of the people of Tokelau, with particular emphasis on the further development of facilities on each atoll that meet their current requirements;

(d) Recalled the consideration by Tokelau of its National Strategic Plan for 2016–2020, which prioritized good governance, human development, infrastructure development, sustainability and climate change adaptation, and noted the completion by Tokelau of the Plan, which determined development and other priorities for the 2016–2020 period, and the Plan's focus on infrastructure development to support service delivery, including through transport and telecommunications solutions;

(e) Acknowledged the ongoing and consistent commitment of New Zealand to meeting the social and economic requirements of the people of Tokelau, including through new shipping service assets and shipping infrastructure development, as well as the support and cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme and WHO;

(f) Commended the completion by Tokelau in 2013 of the Tokelau Renewable Energy Project with the support of the administering Power and receipt by the

Government of the Renewable Energy Award granted by the New Zealand Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority;

(g) Acknowledged the need of Tokelau for continued support from the international community and its desire to become part of the discussions on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[1] the impacts of climate change and the protection of the environment and oceans;

(h) Recalled with satisfaction the establishment and operation of the Tokelau International Trust Fund to support the ongoing needs of Tokelau, and called upon Member States and international and regional agencies to contribute to the Fund and thereby lend practical support to Tokelau in overcoming the problems of smallness, isolation and lack of resources;

(i) Welcomed the cooperative attitude of the other States and territories in the region towards Tokelau and their support for its economic and political aspirations and its increasing participation in regional and international affairs, and in that regard noted the successful chairmanship by Tokelau of the tenth annual ministerial meeting of the Forum Fisheries Committee of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, held in Tokelau on 1 and 2 July 2014, the representation of the Agency by the Ulu-o-Tokelau at the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Apia from 1 to 4 September 2014, and the signing by Tokelau of the Pacific Islands Development Forum Charter on 27 April 2016 so as to become the twelfth member of the Forum;

(j) Called upon the administering Power and United Nations agencies to continue to provide assistance to Tokelau as it further develops;

(k) Recognized the positive actions taken by the administering Power to transmit to the Secretary-General under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations information regarding the political, economic and social situation of Tokelau;

(l) Commended the commitment of both Tokelau and New Zealand to continuing to work together in the interests of Tokelau and its people;

(m) Requested the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of Tokelau and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session.

[1] Resolution 70/1.

Annex

Map of Tokelau